

# **Governor's Workforce Investment Board Health Care Task Force**

## **Conference Call**

**Room 160, Mitchell Building, Helena  
November 28, 2006**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Karen Sullivan, Chair; Lisa Addington; Beverly Barnhart; Mike Downing, DDS; Keith Kelly; LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD; Wendy Palmer; Cindy Stergar; and Pat Wise.

**Committee Members Absent:** Deb Matteucci, and Scot Mitchell.

**Staff:** Emily Lipp Sirota; Leisa Smith; and Chris Wilhelm.

**Guests:** Dan Miles, SWIB Chair; Renee Harris; Arlene Parisot; Dave Gibson; and Marilyn Kelly-Clark.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Karen Sullivan called the conference call to order at 9:08 a.m., welcoming members and the public.

#### Roll Call and Housekeeping

Chris Wilhelm took roll call. Leisa Smith reminded members to state their name when speaking for the accuracy of the minutes.

#### Approval of Agenda

Cindy Stergar moved to approve the agenda as presented, Mike Downing seconded, and the motion carried.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wilhelm reminded members at the last meeting the July 19 minutes were not placed on the agenda and although discussed, could not be approved. LeeAnna Muzquiz moved to accept the July 19 and September 13 minutes as presented. Ms. Stergar seconded, and the motion carried.

#### **Health Care Task Force Report**

Ms. Smith reviewed the report's composition and the process up to this point. She reminded members the report's intent is to provide the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) a general overview of Montana's Health Care Workforce. The report is organized into eight sections: an Introduction; the Scope; the Causes to Health Care Workforce Shortages; Suggestions and Recommendations; and a Conclusion; followed by a list of Key Contributors; a Document List; and an Appendix of exhibits. The report is to be presented at the December 1,

2006 SWIB meeting, weather permitting. The draft report was reviewed by staff, and then sent to the Task Force for comments. The comments were compiled and incorporated into the draft presently being discussed.

Emily Lipp Sirota expressed her appreciation for Ms. Smith's work on the report. Ms. Stergar and Wendy Palmer thanked Ms. Smith for incorporating their comments.

Ms. Stergar asked Chairman Miles if the report reflects the "Charges" set forth by the SWIB. Chairman Miles responded with a yes and much thanks and appreciation for the work from the Task Force members and staff especially given the magnitude of the issue and the short timeframe. Chairman Miles restated the initial need to inform the SWIB of the general status of the Health Care Workforce in the state. He ensured the report and its contents would be a pivotal vehicle for continued discussions for the SWIB as they explore ways to keep abreast of the Health Care workforce issues in our state and its ties to Economic Development, and education/training.

The question of workforce development funding and budgets was asked in regard to the upcoming 2007 Legislative Session. Commissioner Kelly stated funding for 2007 has not yet been determined. However, there will most likely be no increase in funding, and most probably will be cuts. Leisa Smith referred members to the Governors Yellow Book report recently published on the [www.mt.gov](http://www.mt.gov) web site noting the attention given to Health Care issues in the state. Health Care is identified as a topic of focus.

During report review and discussion several language clarifications were requested by members and the public. Staff will make the requested changes to ensure accuracy and readability and distribute the report back to members.

Mr. Miles indicated the SWIB will determine the appropriate follow-up to the report. He stated it was good to educate the SWIB as to the on-going health care issues as they make decisions regarding workforce development.

Ms. Stergar moved to accept the report with the additions made at this meeting. Pat Wise seconded the motion. Having no further public comment, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Miles again expressed his sincere appreciation to Task Force members and staff.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.